programme for tobacco control. This programme envisages establishment of State/District Tobacco Control Cells, school health programme for bringing greater awareness; mass media/ IEC campaign, etc. The pilot phase of the programme has been launched in the year 2007-08 in 18 districts of 9 States.

Herbal treatment

†*231. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that treatment with herbs has been found effective in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that treatment through aforesaid system is cheaper as well as easy;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government has formulated any scheme to make this system of medicine more effective and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha and Unani are ancient but holistic healthcare systems with proven efficacy for treatment of various disorders.

There is global resurgence of interest in traditional medicinal systems and herbal remedies all over the world including India. National Health Policy, 1983, suggested initiation of measures to enable various systems of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy to be developed in accordance with their genius and their integration at the appropriate levels, within specified areas of responsibility and functioning in the overall healthcare delivery systems, especially in regard to the preventive, promotive and public health objectives.

In accordance with these objectives, Government of India has provided full support for the development of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy. Pharmacopoeia Committees, Pharmacopoeial Laboratories, Research Institutions and National Institutes have been set up for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homoeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy systems. Various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been initiated for laying down of pharmacopoeial standards, standardization and quality control of AYUSH products, development and upgradation of AYUSH education. In addition to research by AYUSH Research Councils, research under Extra Mural Research Projects and Golden Triangle Partnership Projects on traditional medicine have been launched by Department of AYUSH in collaboration with CSIR and ICMR for scientific validation of AYUSH drugs and drugless therapies. Assistance is also being provided to State Governments for opening of AYUSH units at the District Hospital/CHCs/PHCs level for integration of AYUSH in national healthcare delivery.

National Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up to promote cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants. New initiatives have been launched in the Eleventh Plan for providing assistance to Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy manufacturing units to establish in-house quality control laboratories and setting up of common facilities for AYUSH industry clusters, assistance to centres of excellence engaged in AYUSH research, public health and revitalization of local health traditions.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.